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**Ferns of South Africa.**—SIM<sup>6</sup> has prepared a second edition of his *Ferns of South Africa*, bringing together in this convenient form much widely scattered information. The preliminary chapters deal with the following topics: ferns, parts of ferns, reproduction and propagation, cultivation, identification and preservation, the ferns of South Africa, the natural home of ferns. The bulk of the volume naturally is concerned with the descriptions of species. Attention is called to the fact that the number of species of ferns in South Africa is remarkably small compared with the whole flora. The present volume contains 220 species of ferns and fern allies, an increase of 41 species over the first edition, published in 1892. The full descriptions and the numerous plates make the volume very complete for its purpose.—J. M. C.

**Western wild flowers.**—MARGARET ARMSTRONG,<sup>7</sup> in collaboration with Professor J. J. THORNBERRY of Arizona, has prepared a popular field book describing and illustrating the "common wild flowers" west of the Rocky Mountains. The book is "popular," not merely in the selection of plants for description, but also in the absence of technical terminology. The author says that "almost all technical botanical terms have been translated into ordinary English." The drawings for the numerous illustrations have all been made from life, and, in connection with the "ordinary English" of the text, should enable the "general public" to identify the conspicuous plants in which it may have a casual interest.—J. M. C.

**Plant life.**—This title has been selected by HALL<sup>8</sup> for a volume presenting the plant kingdom "to the amateur botanist and the lover of nature." As a consequence, the style is not technical, but appeals to general interest. The illustrations are numerous, and 50 of the 74 plates are colored. Some idea of the topics presented can be obtained from the chapter heads, which are in effect as follows: asexual plants, development of sex in plants and a study in evolution, seaweeds, fungi and lichens, archegoniates, phanerogamia, fossil plants, food of plants, perpetuation of the race, defenses of plants, ecology.—J. M. C.

#### NOTES FOR STUDENTS

**Origin of monocotyledony.**—In an address delivered at the twenty-fifth anniversary celebration of the Missouri Botanical Garden, COULTER,<sup>9</sup> because of continued studies on the origin of monocotyledony, chiefly in grasses,

<sup>6</sup> SIM, THOMAS R., *The ferns of South Africa*. 2d ed. 8vo. pp. ix+384. *pls.* 186. Cambridge University Press. 1915. 25s.

<sup>7</sup> ARMSTRONG, MARGARET, *Field book of western wild flowers*. 16mo. pp. xx+596. *col. pls. 48. figs. 500.* New York and London: Putnam, 1915. \$2.00.

<sup>8</sup> HALL, CHARLES A., *Plant life*. 8vo. pp. xi+380. *pls. 74. figs. 80.* London: A. & C. Black. 1915.

<sup>9</sup> COULTER, J. M., *The origin of monocotyledony*. Ann. Mo. Bot. Gard. 2:175-183. *figs. 9.* 1915.